

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 352

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ross Key of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ross Key; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Key was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, Ross Key was a direct descendant of one of our nation's most revered historical figures Francis Scott Key, who penned *The Star-Spangled Banner*; and

WHEREAS, a professional songwriter, singer, and musician, Mr. Key worked with many prominent recording artists in the traditional country, gospel, and blues genres, including Willie Nelson, during his thirty-eight years in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Ross Key served with acumen and alacrity as journeyman electrician, plumber, and master carpenter; in 2012, he and his wife, Brenda Porter Brown, co-founded the Traditional Country Network; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Key won the 1980 Virginia State Dobro Championship; he received commendation and was recognized by the Musicians in Action Guild in 2011, and he was recognized as Colonel Aide de Camp by the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ross Key also received the Best Country Music Festival Award from the International Country Music Association of Europe in 2013 for his annual spring fling, two awards from the Governor's office in 2015, and a certificate of appreciation for his assistance in starting Music Day on the Hill, where he performed our national anthem; and

WHEREAS, Ross Key was actively involved in Boy Scouts of America; he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in his youth and traveled to Europe with Boy Scouts of America in 1978 as their Ambassador of Music; and

WHEREAS, Ross Key was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, Ross Key is survived by his mother, Marla; his brother, Edward; and his son, David; and

WHEREAS, Ross Key leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ross Key, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Key.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.